for have come to me. The total amount up to 1996-97 that we have spent on these three schemes is Rs. 5,750 crores.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have ten questions here and seven minutes. I think the issue relating to poverty programmes cannot be discussed in the Question Hour. It has many ramifications I suggest that if Members give notice, then we can have a full-fledged discussion on it. In this way, we can go to all aspects, including population and other things. So, I come to the next question. We have finalised two questions.

*223. *[The Questioner (Shri Iqbal Singh) was absent. For answer vide col. .infra.]*

*224. *[The Questioner (Shri Ajit P. K. Jogi and Shri Moolchand Meena) were absent. For answer vide col..infra.]*

*225. *[The Questioner (Shri V. Hanumantha Rao) was absent. For answer vide col:..infra.]*

**Shutting down of Two Units of Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant**

*226. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:

Will the Minister of PRIME Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to shut down the two units of Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant as they require urgent repairs;

(b) the reasons why repairs have not been carried out inspite of the defects having been known for quite some time; and

(c) the nature of defects developed in these atomic plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. A difficult heavy water leak from the Over Pressure Relief Device, located in an inaccessible area due to which Unit-1 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station was shut-down, was fixed using indigenously developed technology and robotic toolings. The Unit was restarted in April, 1997.

The second unit is shut-down for enmasse coolant channel replacement and upgradation of systems. The Unit is expected to be restarted by the middle of 1998.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Madam, two atomic power plants were set up in Rajasthan by a Canadian firm. It is feared that the pressure tubes of these atomic power plants are in a danger of getting ruptured. That firm has offered to repair these tubes. But, they say that they are not able to take up the work because of politicisation of the non-proliferation issues. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is a real danger of a rupture in the tubes. I would also like to know as to what kind of politicisations standing in the way of repairs.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: Madam, it is not correct to suggest or to say that it was built by the Canadians. The first unit at Rawatbhata, in Rajasthan, was built with the technical collaboration of Atomic Energy (Canada) Limited. The first unit was commisssioned in 1972. The unit had, at that time, developed water leakage in the south end-shield of the reactor in September, 1981. The unit was sealed and the unit was operated at a derated capacity of 100 MW. In 1994, again, it was shut down. But unit was restarted in Apirl, 1997. The first unit had started working from Apirl, 1997.

As far as the second unit is concerned, it was shut down for en-masse coolant channel replacement and upgradation of systems. The work on the replacement of the en-masse coolant channel and upgradation of systems is in progress. The Unit is expected to be restarted in 1998.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJARAL): Madam, may I make a point here? The metallurgical technology has undergone a big change. In regard to the coolant which was, at that time, fixed, it now seems that new types of metals are required. Of course, the technology keeps on changing fast. Madam, you know better than anybody else does. Therefore, we are trying to cope with it. The fact is that this is an old technology which was transferred here. We are updating it. We are spending money on it. One thing I can assure my hon. friend and the entire House. It is that, we are conscious of the factors which can possibly be hazardous. That is why we take no risks.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Madam, I can satisfied with the Prime Minister's reply. Therefore, I do not want to put my second supplementary.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Yerra Narayanaswamy. He is not here. Shri Ramdas Agarwal.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: मैडम, आपका बहुत धन्यवाद । मैं इस प्रश्न के संबंध में यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जब से पोखरण में एटोमिक बम का ब्लास्ट किया गया था उसके बाद से हमारे राजस्थान की ये दोनों यूनिट्स जो आणविक विद्युत केन्द्र हैं वह सिक हो गए। उसके संबंध में जहां तक मुझे जानकारी है उसमें जो हैवी वाटर काम में आता था वह अमेरिका से सप्लाई होता था लेकिन उसके बाद अमेरिका ने सम्भवतः किसी राजनीतिक और डिप्लोमैटिक रीजन से हैवी वाटर देना बन्द कर दिया और उसके बाद से इन यूनिट्स ने दूसरा हैवी वाटर काम में लिया है। मैं माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जब ये दोनों यूनिट्स जो राजस्थान में वर्षों से सिक पड़ी हुई हैं और पावर जेनरेट करने में अपनी क्षमता का बहुत कम उपयोग कर पा रही हैं तो इसके संबंध में आप क्या कदम उठा रहे हैं? इन यूनिट्स के संबंध में आपको एक नीति अपनानी पड़ेगी। यह जो देशी टेक्नालॉजी, विदेशी टेक्नालॉजी या विदेशी निर्भरता है उसके आधार पर तो ये एटमिक पावर्स स्टेशंस काम नहीं कर सकेंगे, इसलिए मेहरबानी करके या तो यह सुनिश्चित करें कि ये यूनिट्स बन्द होंगी या चालू रहेंगी या हम इनके ऊपर निर्भर करेंगे या नहीं करेंगे?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Madam, my hon. friend has made two points. I would like to clarify one thing. The fact is that this Rajasthan unit which was started with Canadian collaboration was a victim of the 1974 peaceful nuclear experiment, when India became self-reliant in nuclear technlogy. But we are not unhappy about it.

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: You are right, Sir. I am also not unhappy.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: I am voicing the opinion of the entire house when I say that we, in India, all of us, together, are not going to be deterred from our policy about our nuclear programme, whatever is the pressure, direct or indirect, that might come. Our nuclear programme is meant for peaceful purposes. That is why, all the subsequent nuclear plants, starting from Narora, which have been built are based on indigenous technology. Today we have come to a stage when we can do it ourselves. One more agreement we are going to sign with Russia. It is in progress. I will not say that it is an agreement yet. But it is at a stage when a project report is being prepared. It is about 1,000 mw. technology. I know that some countries who are not so positive towards us, have tried to come in the way of that as well because we want to step up to a higher level of production. That is about 1,000 mw. We are going in for that.

So far as Rajasthan is concerned, may I assure my friends that two things we want to achieve? One, of course, is that all the repair work that should be done, should be indigenous, and it is indigenous.

Number two, the heavy water technology is now outmoded, but that does not mean that we should give it up because

investment has been made in it. Therefore, we want to sustain that. We are now self-reliant in heavy water. We do not have to import heavy water any more. At one stage, we imported heavy water from Russia also when I was Ambassador there. But things are now very different.

I can assure my friend that we believe a great deal in our own technology. We believe a great deal that Indian scientists and technologists will be able to cope with all the challenges. We are conscious of the fact that some direct and indirect pressures are exerted to deviate us from the path that we have chosen for ourselves. When I say "ourselves", I mean the entire nation and not the Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### Programmes Launched On The World Health Day

*223. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Day was observed in the country on the 7th April, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes and schemes being implemented in the country for the public; and

(c) what steps are being taken or are proposed to be taken by Governemt to prevent the dangerous diseases like cholera, dengue, malaria, AIDS, TB, cancer etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The World Health Day was observed in the country on 7th April, 1997. The theme for the current year was "Emerging Infectious Diseases - Global Alert, Global Response". A number of programmes were arranged which included:—

1. Organization of a public seminar on emerging infectious diseases by the National Institute of Communicable Diseases.

2. Organization of an exhibition by the Central Health Education Bureau.

3. Organization of a Health Check Camp at Central Health Education Bureau. A drama was also staged to focus attention of the viewers on issues relating to emerging infection.

4. Circulation of a backgrounder on the theme of the World Health Day, to mark the occasion.

5. Release of Special issues of Swasthya Hind and Arogya Sandesh, giving full information about the emerging infectious diseases for the professionals and the community.

6. Release of full page advertisements in all the Newspapers giving messages from Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Secretary (Health) and Director General of Health Services.

7. Organization of Radio and T.V. Talks and special messages given by Hon'ble Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare on T.V.

The State Governments were also requested to organise similar programmes.

There are currently ten major National Health Programmes under implementation in the country which seek to prevent, control/eradicate communicable diseases like Malaria, Filaria, T.B., Leprosy, AIDS and also non communicable diseases like Blindness, Iodine Deficiency Disorders, Mental Health, Cancer etc. The National Family Welfare Programmes have also been under implementation, since 1951 with a view to stabilize the population and they have been augmented to give a focus to reproductive and child health needs.